



State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
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July 29, 2003

To: Homeland Security Grant Local Contact persons

From: Richard M. Flynn, Commissioner of Safety
John A. Stephen, Assistant Commissioner of Safety

Re: Homeland II Grant Funding

Please be advised that the Department of Safety is taking the lead in assisting all local units of government with the upgrading and modernization of interoperable communications equipment, with special emphasis given to the fields of fire service and emergency medical service (EMS). The Department is aware that innumerable requests have been made for communication equipment under the population based and competitive Homeland grants. To that end, as was discussed during the Homeland II grant outreach sessions held throughout the State in June 2003, \$8 million dollars in FY 2003, will be dedicated to initiate this coherent state-wide effort in order to ensure that communications interoperability is available to all disciplines of New Hampshire's First Responders.

The First Responder Radio Interoperability Grant Review Committee has been formed with representatives primarily from the local fire and EMS community in addition to law enforcement. This committee has been tasked with quickly assessing the needs for fire service and EMS communications equipment "in the field" statewide. In August, your community will be contacted to participate in a survey that is critical to this assessment process.

The Department anticipates the potential early stages of local deployment of equipment to occur within the next six months. This must be recognized as a beginning step in the process and this initiative will take several years to fully complete, similar to the state-wide Lawnet initiative, which has continued to evolve since 1996.

We share this information with you to assist you with your local equipment purchase decision making. We also take this opportunity to remind public safety officials that all communications equipment purchased with Homeland Security Grant funds must be APCO-25 compliant per the program guidelines from the U.S. Office Department of Homeland Security. If you have any questions about this process please feel free to contact John Stephen at 271-2559. We look forward to working with you all.

Richard M. Flynn, Commissioner

John A. Stephen, Assistant Commissioner